



**BELIZE**

**Belize's response to possible non-compliance issue raised  
in the national observer report submitted to IATTC.**

**14 June 2018**

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On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, IATTC's Secretariat submitted a Memo to Belize informing that there was no mention within the national observer report submitted on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 whether Silky Grey Sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) that were caught by the observed vessel were retained or released. The Secretariat also mentioned that the possible non-compliance was in relation to Resolution C-16-06, paragraph 1, in which it stated that ***"CPCs shall prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, landing, or storing, in part or whole, carcasses of silky shark caught by purse-seine vessels in the IATTC Convention Area."***

In response to this possible non-compliance issue, Belize would like to inform the Secretariat as follows:

- a. Resolution C-16-06, paragraph 1 refers to the retention of silky sharks caught by purse seine vessels in the IATTC Convention area. It should be noted that Belize has no purse seine vessel and the data submitted in our observer report is in reference to a long line vessel. As a result, Belize is not in contravention of paragraph 1 of this resolution.
- b. Belize's long line fleet targets shark as their main fishery and catch additional tuna, billfishes and other tuna-like species as bycatches only. The capture of Silky Grey Shark falls within the main targeted species of our long line fleet and as a result the Silky Grey Sharks mentioned in our observer report were retained on board.



B E L I Z E

Belize's response to possible non-compliance issue raised in the national observer report submitted to IATTC.

29 June 2018

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On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, IATTC's Secretariat made a request to Belize to provide further clarification on the total length of Silky Sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) caught during 2017 to verify if Belize is in compliance with paragraph 3 of Resolution C 16-06. Paragraph 3 of Resolution C 16-06 states that "***CPCs shall require their multi-species fisheries using surface longlines<sup>1</sup> to limit the catch of silky sharks of less than 100 cm total length to 20% of the total number of silky sharks caught during the trip.***"

In order for Belize to confirm that they are compliant with the provisions of this Resolution, a complete analysis of the total number and length of Silky Sharks caught by Belize's surface long line vessels during 2017 was conducted. The results of the analysis are as follows:

- a. Further to paragraph 3 of the Resolution C 16-06, Belize confirms that based on the total number of Silky Sharks discharged by the long line fleet during 2017, 25% of Silky Sharks were measured over a 12 months period from January to December 2017.
- b. Of the 25% measured, 50% were found to have an average total length of 105cm with a range from 80cm to 130cm.
- c. Considering that the average total length of Silky sharks measured was 105cm, there is only a 40% probability of sharks measuring less than 100cm, therefore we confirm that an estimate of 5% of the total number of Silky Sharks caught by Belize surface long line vessels measured less than 100cm during 2017.